

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Method of initiating services in a telecommunications network including at least one switching point and at least two control points for controlling services, wherein said control points each have a unique address, and wherein a service request is sent by the switching point to a control point in order to initiate a service, the method comprising:

setting at least two control point addresses to send a service request relating to a service; and

sending the service request to the control point addresses one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses, wherein the service request is sent to an address and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein providing from the at least one control point congestion information to the switching point, in which the service request is sent to one address selected on the basis of the congestion information; and

when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network is an intelligent network and the addresses are set in the trigger data of -intelligent services.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a priority indication is attached to the addresses set and another address is selected on basis of the priority indication.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address does not respond.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address refuses to initiate the service.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the re-sending of the service request is ~~restricted by a limit~~ limited by an applicable restriction.

9. (Currently Amended) Method of initiating services in a telecommunications network including at least one switching point and at least two control points for controlling services, wherein the control points each have a unique address, and wherein ~~and wherein~~ a service request is sent by the switching point to a control point in order to initiate a service, and the switching point has congestion information of at least one control point, the method comprising:

setting at least two control point addresses to send a service request relating to a service;

sending the service request to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information,

wherein the service request is sent to ~~an~~ the address selected on the basis of the congestion information and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the congestion information is sent by at least one control point, wherein the congestion information restricts the rate the service requests are sent to the control point.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the congestion information is based on the number of service requests sent by the switching point to the control point.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10, wherein the address having free capacity according to the congestion information is selected.

13. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 9, wherein the address having the least restricting congestion information is selected.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, further comprising
setting a maximum number for initiation attempts,
checking whether the service is initiated at the latest address,
checking whether the maximum number or initiation attempts is reached, and
sending the service request to another address selected on the basis of the
congestion information, until the service is initiated or the maximum number of initiation
attempts is reached.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address does not respond.

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address refuses to initiate the service.

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the telecommunications network is an intelligent network and the addresses are set in the trigger data of intelligent services.

19. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, wherein the control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, and wherein the switching point sends a service request to a control point in order to initiate a service, the network comprising:

means for storing in the database at least two control point addresses to send a service request relating to a service; and

means for adapting the switching point to send the service request to the set control point addresses one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the control point addresses,

wherein the service request is sent to an address and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

20. (Currently Amended) A switching point for a telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, wherein the control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, wherein the switching point sends a service request to ~~the~~ a control point in order to initiate a service, the switching point comprising:

means to receive a list of at least two control point addresses that a service request related to a service is sent; and

means to send the service request to the set control point addresses one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the control point addresses,

wherein the service request is sent to an address and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

21. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, wherein the control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, and wherein the switching point sends a service request to the control point in

order to initiate a service and the switching point has congestion information of at least one control point, the network comprising:

in the database, at least two control point addresses are stored that a service request related to a service is sent; and

the switching point is adapted to send the service request to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information,

wherein the service request is sent to ~~an~~ the address selected on the basis of the congestion information and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

22. (Currently Amended) A switching point for a telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, wherein the control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, and wherein the switching point sends a service request to a control point in order to initiate a service and the switching point has congestion information of at least one control point, the switching point comprising:

means to receive a list of at least two control point addresses that a service request related to a service is sent; and

means to send the service request to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information,

wherein the service request is sent to ~~an~~ the address selected on the basis of the congestion information and when the address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.